(b) if so, the details of the changes so made and norms being followed at present;

(c) whether the reduction in the distance between two sugar mills has resulted in increase in the cost of production of sugar and has also adversely affected the availability of sugarcane to the sugar-mills; and

(d) if so, the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) The Licensing Policy for sugar industry for the 8th Five Year Plan is presently being reviewed by the Government.

Tourism as an Industry

86. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have since taken a decision to accord the status of an Industry to tourism and also to give priority treatment to this sector; and

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there has been tardy implementation of the above decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 14 States and 3 Union Territories have already declared tourism as an Industry. In addition, 4 States have declared only hotels as an Industry.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India also offer number of incentives to the Tourism Industry including the setting up of hotels.

Unrest amongst agricultural labour

87. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the unrest among the agricultural labour, as the land distributed among the weaker sections has been reclaimed by the landlords in various States using unscrupulous means;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to implement the land reforms in these States in a meaningful manner; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c) Complaints have been made in and outside Parliament from time to time about SC and ST assignees of surplus ceiling land having been disposed of their allotted land by erstwhile land-owners/other vested interests.

States have been advised to ensure that the possession may be restored to such assignees. The then Prime Minister in his letter addressed to Chief Ministers of States/UTs in July, 1990 has urged that the revenue machinery and the police should be geared to see that any hindrance to the occupation of such lands by the allottees is removed. In addition to the possession being given to the people, financial assistance for the development of these lands should be provided under various Central/State Schemes.

Withdrawal of Supply of Palm Oil by NDDB

88. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press Reports which appeared in Marathi and English papers the dated the 2nd

February, 1991 published from Bombay regarding the complaint made by the Maharashtra Chief Minister of non-cooperation by N.D.D.B. and the withdrawal of supplies of Palm Oil; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NDDB under its Market Intervention Operation has almost doubled the supply of Dhara brand of edible oil in Maharashtra over 12 months from 1000 MT in January, 1990 to 2150 MT in December, 1990. The question of non-cooperation by NDDB does not, therefore, arise. The factual position explaining that NDDB has been operating according to the guidelines laid down by Government of India has been explained by NDDB in a written communication to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. As regards withdrawal of supply of palm oil imported oil is provided to State Governments for distribution through the public distribution system. However, the allocation of imported edible oil is meant to supplement the availability of indigenous oils and not to meet the entire demand of States/Union Territories. Allocation of imported idible oils through the public distribution system also depends on several factors like availability of imported edible oil with Government, demands of States/Union Territories etc.

Increase in the prices of essential commodities due to reduced ration supply

89. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that reduction in the supply of essential commodities being supplied through ration shops has pushed exorbitant price rise which is affecting the people in general and low income group in particular and if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to increase the supply of essential rationed commodities to Maharashtra and other States?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): There has been no reduction in the allocation of essential commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene from the Central pool except edible oils to States/UTs. including Maharashtra for supply through the Public Distribution System. While allocation of wheat was increased from 7.7 lakh tonnes in December 1990 to 9.55 lakh tonnes in February 1991, the allocation of rice was maintained at normal levels. Allection of Kerosene in February 1991 was higher compared to the allocation in February last year.

In the case of levy sugar, allocation is continued on a uniform norm of 425 gram per capita monthly availability on the basis of projected population as on 1-10-86.

Allocation of these items for supply through the PDS is supplemental in nature and is not intended to meet the entire requirements of the States/UTs.

There has been some increase in the prices of some of the essential commodities such as wheat, groundnut oil, vanaspati, masoor, arhar, gram etc. which may be attributed to seasonable factors as in the case of wheat; shortfall in production, as in cases of pulses and edible oils.

Apart from the measures on the broad macro-economic front such as efforts to reduce growth in money supply and fiscal discipline, specific measures have been taken by the